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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-8 and 19-23, as amended, will be pending. Claims 9-18 have been withdrawn by the Examiner.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly lacking antecedent basis. Apparently applying a *patentability* analysis to assess *antecedent basis*, the Examiner contends that since claims 7 and 8 recite "only method steps... they lack proper antecedent basis and will not be given any patentable weight."¹ Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to MPEP §2173.05(p):

There are many situations where claims are permissively drafted to include a reference to more than one statutory class of invention.

* * *

An applicant may present claims of varying scope even if it is necessary to describe the claimed product in product-by-process terms. *Ex parte Pantzer*, 176 USPQ 141 (Bd. App. 1972)

Claims 7 and 8 are presented as valid dependent claims which serve to vary the scope of claim 1. As claims 7 and 8 are proper dependent claims, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under §103(a) as unpatentable over Simpson (U.S. 5,733,945). The Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is neither taught or suggested by Simpson. Specifically, the presently claimed compositions include, *inter alia*, a β -dicarbonyl compound selected from benzoyl acetone, dibenzoylmethane, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptanedione, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedione, or a β -ketoester. In contrast, Simpson discusses metal *acetyl acetate compositions* which may include additional *acetyl acetone*. Simpson further notes, in addition to improved environmental properties, that "this system provides delay to the normally low temperature, fast cure rates of metal acetyl acetates."² Accordingly, the skilled artisan would not be motivated by Simpson to select benzoyl acetone, dibenzoylmethane, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptanedione, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedione, or a

¹ Office Action mailed July 1, 2004, page 2.

² US 5,733,945 Col. 3, lines 28-34.

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β -ketoester, for use in an organometallic compositions having the claimed β -dicarbonyl : metal ratios. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 1, 2004

DC:DB01 20673701.1 01-Nov-04 16:12